

Patio rankings in
downtown
Waterloo - p. 8



THE CORD WEEKLY

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Laurier's Official Student Newspaper • Volume 42 • Issue 3

Men's basketball
coach set to lead
student nats - p. 9



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Residence crisis?



Although there will not be three to a bed, some first year students are facing a residence cram this Fall.

Jennifer Martin

'Vehemently opposed' is probably the most diplomatic way to describe WLU Students' Union President Dave Prang's reaction to some of the proposed methods of dealing with Laurier's latest residence dilemma.

With around 400 students that currently cannot be accommodated in the existing residence space, some creative solutions have been passed around the table, many of which, although they will provide much needed accommodations, also have the potential to lower the quality of residence life at Laurier.

On paper the news about this year's first-year university applicants looks great for Laurier's public relations. With a 2 percent increase in first choice applications and with total applications up by 10 percent over last year's numbers, it would seem that Laurier is doing better than many other Ontario universities, some of which have been forced to run a second round of acceptances.

However, along with an increase in total applications comes a 20 per cent increase in confirmations for a limited number of residence spaces. As it stands, Laurier has 2,275 offers confirmed, which translates into the school having around 400 first year students who currently will not fit into the existing residence space. Although this preliminary figure has the potential to be reduced by anywhere from 50 to 150 students, according to estimates from the housing and admissions offices respectively, the administration is operating under a worst case scenario in an effort to house all incoming first year students.

"We feel there will be some softening of the number by September," says Wilfrid Laurier University President and vice-chancellor Dr. Bob Rosehart. But even with some students refusing their offers, places still need to be found for the remainder. The push so far has been to find off-campus housing for students rather than to convert residence rooms to house more students.

The university is not without possible solutions. Although administration has refused to rescind offers of admission and residence, there are still other

**"We need to go for comfort, not image."
- WLUSU
President
David Prang**

plans that may or may not be used. While solutions ranging from buying a property on Bricker Street to using the Comfort Inn at Lodge Street and Weber Street have been suggested, nothing has yet been confirmed.

Should it not be possible to place students off campus, the alternate solution is to modify existing rooms. Dean of Students David McMurray assures students that, unlike two years ago, single rooms in Conrad Hall will not be altered to take two students. However, in some residences double rooms have been considered for three people. By removing the beds and using a bunk bed and loft bed with a desk and wardrobe underneath it is believed that three

students, who will pay \$800 less for the room, can be accommodated fairly comfortably.

Yet it is these measures regarding existing residence space to which Prang is most opposed. Having served as a residence life don in the past, he feels "it is completely unacceptable to put more students in residence."

Although he is also opposed to the use of a hotel as residence, since it fails to provide the residence life experience that so many students are eager to have, he views placing more students into residence as the worse proposition. He claims there is not enough space or facilities, such as washrooms and lounges, for so many students to live comfortably. To force students into such a situation is to deny them the residence life experience that they are both expecting and paying for.

"We need to go for comfort, not image," he says of the university's decision not to rescind offers of residence. It would reflect badly on the school's public image to refuse residence to students who have already had offers made to them, yet Prang is adamant that the university needs to cater to the students and not so much to the public perception of Laurier.

With three weeks left to go before a plan needs to be created, nothing has been settled for certain this year. Yet Dr. Rosehart admits, "I think it's clear that we'll have to build something next fall." With increasing interest in Laurier that leads to a higher demand for residence, solutions will be required to maintain the integrity of residence life for all first year students.

Summer Festivals in Kitchener- Waterloo

Amanda Fitzpatrick

With summer in full swing, a deluge of summer festivals isn't far behind. It seems that there are events designed to appeal to all genres and the options are countless. And while there are many high-profile festivals to choose from this season, there are a few noteworthy ones happening right here in Kitchener-Waterloo that shouldn't be forgotten.

The 9th annual Uptown Waterloo Jazz Festival is taking place from July 12 to 14 at locations all over the up-town core. The festival, which is sponsored by the Business Improvement Area, is free to the public and features both local and international artists.

The festival begins today with a gala held at the University of Waterloo Humanities Theatre. Mother of Pearl, an all female group hailing from Vancouver will be performing. The popular quintet has been featured in the Montreal International Jazz Festival and have done a CBC Radio Live broadcast. This is the only night of the festival that requires a ticket. They are \$30 each and can be purchased from the Humanities Theatre or by phone at 888-4908.

Other artists participating in this year's festivities include The DysFUNKtionals, Rane Lee, Rob Stone and the Trillium Dixie Jazz Band. There are many other performers scheduled over the course of the weekend at different festival locations. Find more information and schedules for this event at www.uptownwaterloo-jazz.com.

Another popular event is the Hillside Festival, which takes place every year at Guelph Lake Island. This is a more general music festival, happening over the course of a weekend and featuring many diverse acts. There are 60 performers showcased in one-hour sets on four different stages all over the festival site. Artists include some mainstream Canadian acts and musicians from different genres such as pop, jazz and world. There are also dance and performance artists to amuse and entertain.

The festival includes many different workshops and has various

special interest areas such as a Healing Arts tent and an Environmental Exposition. There are even artisans and food pavilions on site.

Among the many performers this year are the Barra MacNeils, The Constantines, Gord Downie and The Dinner is Ruined with Julie Doiron, Ron Hawkins and the Rusty Nails, The Pocket Dwellers and Hawksley Workman. There is also a slew of spoken word artists scheduled to perform. This is a very well rounded festival with something to entertain everyone. Acoustic Guitar magazine called it "one of the 25 best festivals" and it promises to be a weekend well spent.

The Hillside Festival is taking place this year from July 27-29 and advance tickets are \$60. At the gate, though, tickets will cost you \$70. There are also single day and evening passes available. Call the Hillside ticket line at 763-8817 or you can buy tickets at Wordsworth Books at 100 King St. South. For camping reservations call the GRCA, Guelph Lake at 824-5061 and for more information on the festival in general, check out www.hillside.on.ca.

A more off-the-wall festival is happening from August 22-26 in uptown Waterloo. The 13th annual Waterloo Buskers Carnival is taking place and promises to be four days full of "extra-unordinary entertainment from around the world." The carnival is brimming with stilt walkers, diablo dudes, comedy, fire, uni-cyclers, contortionists and other equally spectacular performers.

The event kicks off on August 23 with a barbeque and a show, and continues throughout the weekend with several unique performances which will include both a late night adult show and a vaudeville show. Expect a very diverse festival as it attracts performers from all over the world.

The event is free, but donations are accepted and all collected monies go back into the festival to help preserve it for future years. All activities are taking place on King St. between William and Erb St.'s. To read more about this festival and find out performance times, the official Waterloo Busker Carnival web site can be found at www.waterloo-buskers.com.

Campus congestion continues

Where will we fit all the children in September?

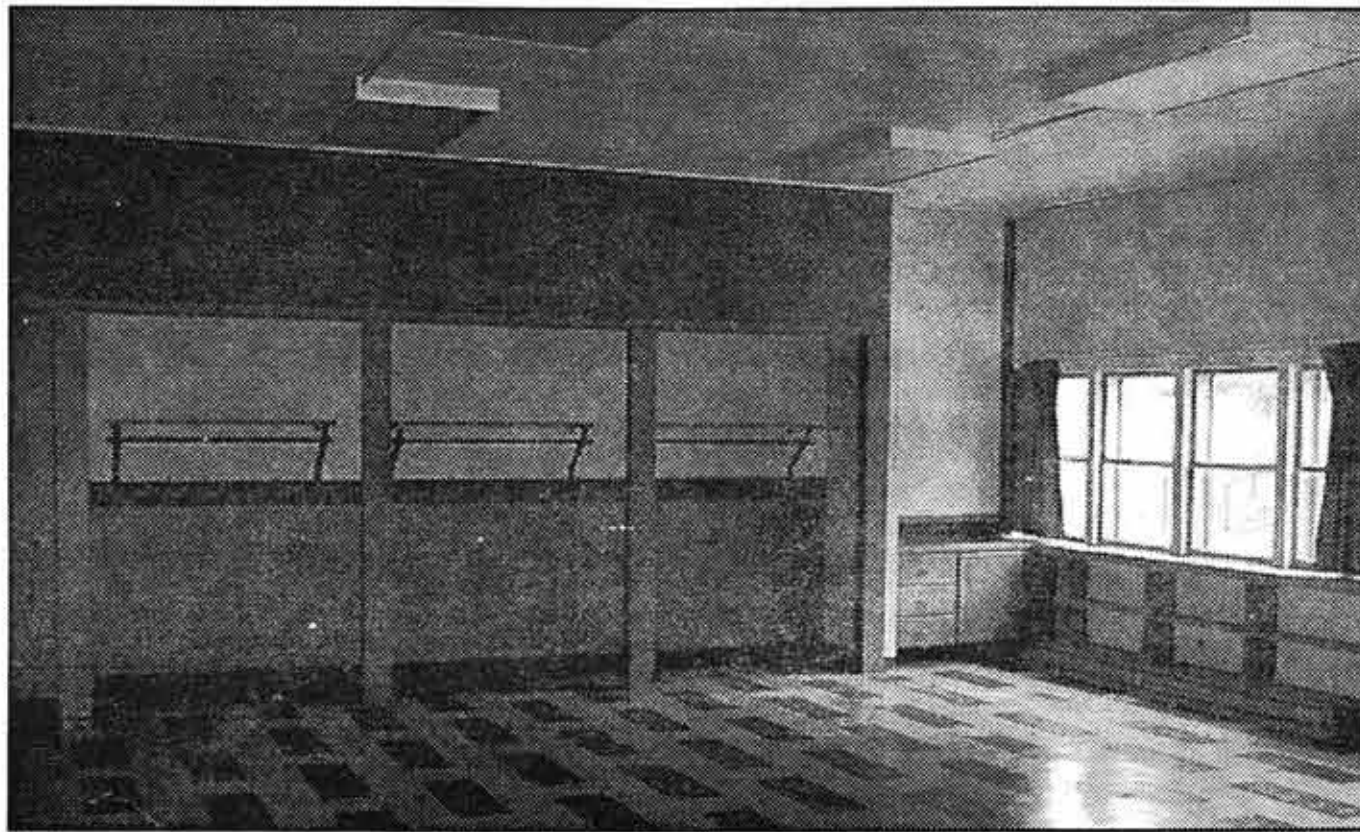
Dillon Moore

If you find yourself feeling a little claustrophobic when this fall arrives, chances are you're not going to be the only one. Once again, Laurier faces the possibility of being packed with an over-abundance of enrolled students.

The administration is currently dealing with the mixed blessing of being too popular. Enrollment for the coming year is way up, and if the numbers hold, the student body will have to face congestion both on the campus and in the classrooms.

The situation has arisen because an unprecedented number of applicants to the university chose to accept the offer of admission that Laurier sent to them last spring. In past years, the percentage of those who accepted the admissions offer had hovered around the 55-56% mark. This year, a full 59% of those who were given offers of enrollment decided to accept them. Because the administration did not want to face the fallout that would result from withdrawing offers of admission, Laurier now has a number of enrolled students far in excess of its target.

To compound this problem, the target is routinely set higher than the actual number of students that the school is ready to accept. The Ontario Government determines funding based on enroll-



A classroom in soon-to-be-acquired St. Michael's school is ready to be filled with scores of eager university students. Space available for hanging winter jackets and lunch pails is visible on the coat rack in the back.

ment figures as they appear in November, so to ensure funding is maintained the university must have enough students after the usual number of dropouts from the first few months are subtracted.

Last year, the university was at the comfortable position of being 77 students above its target. This year, the total of students is expected to exceed the target by a few hundred.

Wilfrid Laurier University President Dr. Bob Rosehart finds it hard to explain the higher enrollment rate of accepted applicants

that occurred this year. In the past, actions on the university's part, such as promising full first-year

"I'm very concerned about the quality of the Laurier experience with this number of students on campus."

residence, has caused an anticipated jump in enrollment, and the effect from other universities' ini-

tiatives has made an impact on Laurier's enrollment.

The only thing that Rosehart sees as being a possible reason for the increase is the larger amount of potential students who took tours in the interim between receiving acceptance notices and actually registering.

Students' Union President Dave Prang feels there is reason to be worried about the quality of experience that students will receive, primarily with residence issues, but also with problems over classroom space and general space on campus.

"I'm very concerned about the quality of the Laurier experience with this number of students on campus."

The addition of the classrooms in St. Michael's across the road, and the completion of the Arts "C" wing due for January, 2002, as well as the planned lecture hall on Bricker avenue to be completed for 2003, are what Rosehart points toward as both the short and long term solutions to the classroom space problem. He also believes the campus space problems will be countered by the renovations to the library and concourse, and by a planned student lounge component to the Bricker lecture hall.

Rosehart also has a feeling based on past experience that the numbers will be down by the time classes begin, but he admits that this is a contentious position.

Construction and related activity also have the potential to cause disruption to classes nearby. Rosehart recognizes that people will have to navigate around construction sites and put up with some noise in classes, but says this is "short term pain for long term gain."

The noisier aspects of construction like excavation and the building of foundations are on line and to be completed by the time September arrives, which will hopefully keep the noise down to a minimum.

Laurier to finally buy St. Michael

Matthew Cade

When the deal closes next Monday and St. Michael Catholic School finally becomes the property of the University, it will mark the end of an long struggle on Laurier's part to obtain the property and hence more classroom space for students.

Right now the university is planning on creating 12 classrooms and 820 new desperately needed seats out of the former Catholic elementary school. 6 rooms will seat 75 students, 4 will seat 30 students and 1 will hold 100 students. The gymnasium is also being made into a 150 seat lecture hall.

According to WLU President Dr. Bob Rosehart and other members of administration, the classrooms will be ready for September and will help to solve overcrowding in the learning environment.

However, when asked what their timeline on the project was, two unidentified members of the Laurier construction brain-trust chuckled and replied, "No comment."

In any case, the classroom space is on its way. Said Ron Dupuis, Assistant Vice-President, Physical Resources: "The deal closes on Monday and we start work on Tuesday."

One very important consideration surrounding this acquisition and the subsequent construction is the increased pedes-

trian traffic that will result on University Avenue. To Dr. Rosehart's credit, he has already begun to manage this problem in the students' favour. A 'traffic signal patrolled with push buttons' (much like the one on King Street across from Stanley Burger) was recently approved for University Ave.

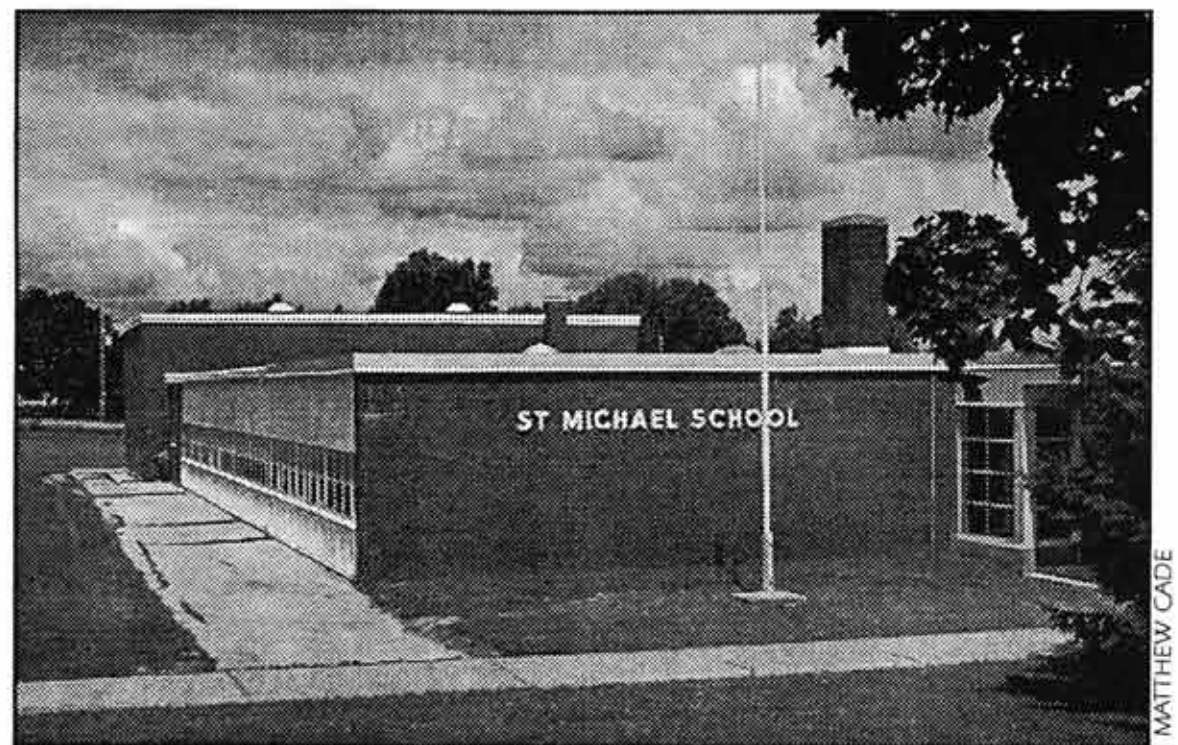
"We approached the Region of Waterloo, said Rosehart, "and by September, in theory, we should have a much better situation."

According to Tom Smith, Manager of Planning and Capital Construction for the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, WLU administration has talked about purchasing the property for nearly eight years.

It wasn't until recently, however, that the university was able to actively pursue the property. Because of a new process required of Ontario school boards by the Provincial government, when the Catholic Board made the decision to close St. Michael in the Spring of 2000, it had to offer it to a number of different agencies, one of which was WLU.

According to the regulation, however, these 'agencies' were placed in a queue. In this case, the French Catholic School Board had priority and could have obtained the building for a dollar. For this reason, Rosehart and others figured they would miss their opportunity to add to the growing Laurier community.

Eventually a deal was negotiated, howev-



St. Michael school, located across from WLU on University Avenue, will likely be property of Laurier this coming Monday. I always wished I could be ten for the rest of my life.

er, which by Monday will have seen Laurier pay market value for St. Michael as well as for a four room addition to St. Thomas School, another Catholic institution that was closed on the same date. Instead of taking St. Michael, the French Catholic School Board will earn the rights to St. Thomas and Laurier is able to gain the closer building.

At present there are no major long term plans for the newly acquired building. The

main thrust of the purchase is to create more classroom space in a building that is near to the small but expanding campus.

In a year, however, it is possible that a Daycare Center will be added to a lower level of St. Michael for children of both staff and students.

"The demand has been on and off," said Dr. Rosehart, "but there is another group looking into it."

A Guatemalan Experience

Laurier students take a hands-on approach in their studies by travelling abroad to witness the realities of life in Central America.

Rebecca Marie Corks

This past spring, for the months of May and June, I was part of a group of Laurier students who travelled through Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador as a hands-on educational experience. The majority of the ten students in our group were studying either International Development or Anthropology, which made this trip a real-life look into the worlds in which they have spent years studying in class.

The political situation in Central America is a complicated one, with different countries echoing familiar tales of repression, counter-insurgency and revolution. Guatemala is the place that we spent most of our time, learning about the land, its people and their struggle for survival and justice. I lived there last fall as part of an exchange, and have engaged in dialogue with many locals about their situation and living conditions. Going back this time with a group of students was a different perspective, trying to open their eyes to how our lives here at home affect the day to day living routine of the average Guatemalan.

Living in a mountaintop village situated above the clouds (literally, we could see it raining in the valley beneath us), with people who had never seen a group of white skins before, was an experience almost impossible to describe. The generosity and hospitality of the people, their genuine enthrallment of our habits (brushing our teeth was a hit, Jennies' walkman became a community possession and skipping ropes even the men thought were fun) and a sincere desire to share their lives and homes with us made up for the fact that we lived in dwellings made from the surrounding earth along with their

roosters, turkeys, chickens and entire extended families.

Showers were from buckets, if you were lucky. Lanterns lit up our path after the sun went down. No cars up here, because there were no roads, only mountain trails. The amount of garbage they produced in one year's time was about the same amount one family here produces in a day. Corn and beans were grown on the mountain-side, and an easy hike to collect firewood for them was the equivalent

†
Their community would be an ideal world, if it weren't for the political reality of the society around them.
 †

to Olympic training for us. Water was available only when it rained and collected in giant tropical leaves.

There was no church in the community, but these were the most spiritual people I have ever encountered. Without outside distractions, they had learned that family and community was the most treasured aspect of life, sharing and giving and caring for one another. This was not only a method of survival - it kept their spirits alive and their hearts in touch.

They knew, by name, every plant, tree and flower in the surrounding forest, and also had names for every mountain peak within view (and there were many). In their indigenous language, K'itchi'qie, the translation for asking someone how old they

were was asking how many rains they had lived through. Their community would be an ideal world, if it weren't for the political reality of the society around them.

Guatemala's revolution ended in 1995, and the Peace Accords were officially signed in 1997 between the leftist guerrilla group URNG and the right-winged, conservative, American-backed government.

The reason for the revolt was about land, of course, the same story for most oppressed cultures in the world. The indigenous Mayan, whose territory stretches from Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula down to El Salvador's Pacific Coastline, had lived there long before the Spaniards arrived. After 500 years of brutal oppression, land expropriation and cultural domination by the colonizers, the indigenous peoples decided to ask for their land back. Just space enough to plant their crop of corn, or a patch of beans, not all that much in comparison to what had been taken.

Around 1965 a guerrilla group formed in the mountains of Guatemala and entered into a thirty-year conflict that resulted in thousands of innocent indigenous peoples being massacred by a U.S.-funded Guatemalan military. Mass clandestine gravesites where the villages used to be are still being excavated today.

The groups we worked with and learned from were a collection of grassroots, human rights NGO's whose work is still considered risky under the government of today. Some examples of the projects they were working on are trying to bring justice to the military commanders held responsible for the accounts of massacres during the war, helping communities hold



A normal day at a Guatemalan marketplace.

excavations for the clandestine gravesites of their loved ones, working with indigenous communities to obtain the territorial rights to their land from the finca owners and government, teaching the locals to use organic fertilizer and sustainable farming methods to grow their crops, and attempting to get certification to enter the fair-trade, international coffee market.

Coffee is the main export of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Bananas are a close second. As a result, the life and well being of thousands of Central

Americans are dependent on our caffeine addiction and potassium preference. Although we pay relatively the same prices for our cup of coffee and bunch of bananas here in North America year after year, the companies in the middle are becoming filthy rich by setting the market-buying price low from the producer, and selling it high (sometimes tripled or even quadrupled) to us, the consumer.

All the conscience-raising about buying fair-trade coffee from stores that supply it here (Ten Thousand Villages or Ebytown Food Co-op) take on a different

light when you meet a Guatemalan family whose entire life depends on their unfairly-paid Labour for the local finca owner. After sharing time with their families and in their humble community, fair-trade coffee simply smells better, and doesn't leave a bittersweet conscience aftertaste.

After spending a month travelling through Guatemala, we crossed the eastern border to Honduras, one of the poorest countries on the continent. While in Honduras, we visited an ancient Mayan city called Copan, and spent time working at a

local orphanage started by a Honduran woman with an extra-large heart.

After Honduras, we travelled South to El Salvador, visiting there some of the worst hit sites from January's earthquake. After two weeks in El Salvador we returned to Guatemala for a last week of processing the trip, evaluating our experience and collaborating on ideas to work for change once back on Canadian soil.

If you want to join the grassroots revolution, just let us know, because it's already begun...



Rebecca visits with a Guatemalan family.



The tie that binds since 1926

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Rebecca Marie Corks, Terri Ramsawack, our waitress at The Silver Spur, Kristi from the Barley Works, our waitress at the Faillie, Jeff from the Symposium, no one from the Concourse patio and the cutie who checked out my food while checking me out at Zehr's; EPMD, Oasis, Avalanches, Rancid, Green Day, Smif-N-Wessun, Weezer, Radiohead, The Clash, Bob Marley and the Wailers, Keith Richards; A fond farewell to our partners in crime and Cord heroes Anthony Iantorno and Kevin Ramzi Nasir for their years of service to the paper. We'll miss you guys! This is really my last Contributors section. See ya at the revolution (and I don't mean the nightclub) - Maneesh

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THURSDAY JULY 12, 2001

Sexuality and athletics

"For the past year and a half, I have been having an affair with a pro baseball player from a major-league East Coast franchise..."

Such were the printed words of Brendan Lemon, editor-in-chief of "Out" magazine as he pleaded for his professional baseball boyfriend to come out of the closet. Lemon believed that this player coming out would essentially "lessen his physical burden."

It is rather ironic, then, that the sporting world seemed to stand up, take notice and even find the time to "hiss" and "boo" at both Lemon's plea and also to the oft surprising revelation that there are gay athletes in professional sports.

After Lemon's column was printed, it was not at all difficult to tune into a sports talk radio show and hear callers express their disdain for homosexual athletes. Or to log on to an internet message board to see flame after flame declaring, "I HATE FAGS!!!!" or other equally mindless postings.

Similarly, the University of Hawaii recently changed their sports teams' nickname from the Rainbow Warriors to simply the Warriors. The reason for the change was because, as the school's athletic director put it, "That logo really put a stigma on our program at times in regards to its part of the gay community, their flags and so forth."

In other words, the University didn't want to risk being associated with homo-

sexuals. Never mind that the rainbow is a Hawaiian symbol for power and hope.

All of this ballyhooing only helps to prove that outside of religion, sports is the facet of our society that is furthest behind the times. It seems that as every other aspect of our culture proceeds steadily into the future, sports are left far behind in the doldrums of the 20th (gasp!) century.

If I can pitch a baseball or shoot a basketball or throw a football, then what

All of this ballyhooing only helps to prove that outside of religion, sports is the facet of our society that is furthest behind the times.

difference should it make whether my Alex writes "ander" or "andra" at the end of his or her name?

It comes down to the fact that sports are traditionally a masculine exploit. For as long as there have been sports, there have been men spitting tobacco, lifting weights and shagging women.

It can even be looked at more locally than that. How many females in this school lust after the guys on the football or hockey teams primarily because of the

sport they play? Quite a few. Last time I checked, the curling team didn't quite get that same kind of love.

So it becomes difficult for those involved in sports to imagine homosexuals - those who are perceived as being less masculine - participating and excelling in the sports that have always belonged to "real men."

It is for this same reason that the (WNBA) Women's National Basketball Association and WUSA, the recently formed professional women's soccer league, are often disrespected by sports purists who feel that the level of play executed by females is inferior and will never be as satisfying as men playing the sport.

I, for one hope that Lemon's baseball boyfriend does come out and is successfully able to continue his career unscathed so that others could also follow him from deep inside the closet and onto the sporting field where they belong.

But knowing the climate in sports today, it's unfortunate that I doubt this will occur.

Sources: Sports Illustrated, CNN.com, CBC sports online (cbc.ca)

WILBUR MCLEAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The opinions expressed in this editorial are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Cord Staff, the editorial board, or WLU SP.

LETTERS

STUPID ISN'T COOL!

With a new sense of appreciation for seventies architecture, I prepare to leave four years of Laurier behind me. And I am not overcome with bitterness at campus racism, sexism, homophobia, or the reverses of any of these. Nor am I resentful of my peers for their school pride or apathy per se. What gets me worked up for a fight is the microcosm of society found on our campus. Laurier culture can't seem to shake popular culture's notion that stupid is cool.

It's one thing for films like *Forrest Gump*, *Dude Where's My Car*, and *Legally Blonde* to legitimize stupidity, but I had expected a different attitude at university. When peers received negative reinforcement for asking or answering questions in first year classes, friends told me things would get better next year. They never did.

Students are still afraid to give constructive criticism and, ironically, more afraid to admit they don't know something. Instead of looking up an unknown word in the dictionary, we still throw the whole book away. People who do extra work are still laughed at. Maybe it's just Mike Harris' model of universities as training centres prevailing, but I always thought I could "get the piece of paper" and learn at the same time.

Sadly, it seems many professors have been conscripted into this conspiracy to foster ignorance among students. They relent to our mass protest against challenging ourselves, and many were doubtful ever capable of teaching in the

first place. This has led me to believe the only way out is for universities to hire faculty separately for research and teaching positions, as they require unique and conflicting competencies. But it seems the battle cannot be won.

Part of me wants to damn the world to its unchallenging conformist mediocrity, but another part - the same idealistic youthful part that drives me to keep learning solely for learning's sake - cannot cease to hope. So I hope, but I'm not holding my breath. See you around the way...

Nevik Izmar Rasin

EMPTY CAUSES

Recent times have brought about a multitude of various groups preaching various causes. However, these groups are usually pushing a politically correct personal crusade on the part of one person or a group of like-minded people. Believing in something and working to change it is not a negative thing.

However, people who simply desire a large following for their personal crusade rather than actually wanting to provoke any real change drive many of these organizations. And good liberal-minded people, confident that what they are doing is right, become nothing more than additional bodies marching in someone else's personal crusade.

Starting an army of followers for one's own cause does not necessarily make it a more legitimate cause. For example, how many people do you

think support freedom for the state of Tibet from Chinese rule simply because the Beastie Boys do a really cool concert every so often?

This is not to say organized marches or protests are unworthy, however. Some causes are legitimate, but being just another body on the evening news supporting someone else's cause reduces you to just another body with nothing of your own to say. If you don't even know the reasons why a cause should be, taking part in it only satiates the ego of some fool with too much false conviction and too little substance.

If you're ever considering taking part in some sort of organized cause, think about the reasons why you should give your time and energy to it. Is your decision to take part due to the fact that the cause is of genuine concern to you, or are you interested simply because a friend of yours told you it would be a good thing to do? Educate yourself and don't be caught in someone else's desperate quest for personal glory.

Manny Weirido

ONE REAL CAUSE

I am writing this letter to the editor to do my best to help a cause in which I believe very deeply. Even while you sit sipping your cafe whatever, the fight is raging on. I speak, of course, of the crisis in Tibet.

I saw this Beastie Boys concert, see,

continued on next page...

LETTERS

...continued from last page

and now I want to say that I think Tibet is right. They should not have to make any more of those Hot Wheels toys. Please, help this cause and stand up for this African nation.

Dr. Maxwell Grosbard

AN OLYMPIC DISASTER

Just so everyone knows, if Toronto is awarded the Olympics, it's going to cost all of us a truckload of money. Sure it will be neat to party with the rest of the world for a fortnight. But mark my words: we'll all pay for it soon enough. I know a genius who did his 4th year economics independent research study on the Toronto

Bid, and he says that Bitove is a knob.

Concerned Canadian

COMMODITIES

I think it's so cool that I can watch a girl group be formed on TV for free, and then get to buy their album when it comes out!

It's almost like they made a weekly commercial for their product and I'm the victim of a huge marketing swindle. Naw, that kinda thing could never happen to me..?

Chump #2683

Employees Are People!

Terri Ramsawack



Why is it that on a day-to-day basis certain customers feel they have the right to treat employees in the retail market like crap?

Perhaps it is the fact that most large retailers have advertised slogans saying that the customer is "number one", or that the customer is "always right."

In spite of this, to those of us who have worked in any customer service industry, it seems clear that the customer is almost always wrong. As an employee at a large retailer, I think I have the right to say that we should stop acting as though we are robotic slaves or servants. Yes, we do work at the store, but it is impossible for us to know each and every price when there are probably 10,000 or more different items.

Through the experiences that I have had over my last six years of employment, I have come to notice how cheap some people can be. They will go to great lengths to save a dime, sometimes even just to save a penny. And during their intermittent stints as customers, they have no conception of who it is they're trampling on to do so. It seems ridiculous to me that people can be such incon-

siderate, selfish jerks.

Employees are hired to help you and provide efficient customer service, but they most certainly do not get paid enough money to deal with your senseless verbal abuse. Common sense seems to elude these mindless customers that enter retail stores. They think that everywhere is a flea market, and that they can walk in and get a discount or bargain price on everything.

They believe that in the process of trying to do so, they can speak to employees and managers like they are stupid. Do these so-called "servants" wear a sign on their backs or have a nametag that says, "I am an idiot - use that to your advantage?"

As well, why is it that customers feel the need to use every swear word in the book to try to get their point across? Do they not realize how incredibly dumb they sound? Customers must begin to understand that we are there to help and that if they approach a situation with a positive attitude, then the employees will give them a positive response. Stop treating us like your own personal punching bags.

This is not to say that every customer acts like this. On average, most customers are nice and understanding and can usually make up for the select few who seem out to ruin your day. A thank-you goes out to those who are smart, compassionate customers - on behalf of my fellow blue collared customer service employees.

Apathy and Ignorance

Anthony Iantorno



Do you want to waste five minutes of your time? Well if you do, read this column. If not, get your sorry ass back to work so you can graduate and "get tha f*!k outta Dodge".

So there I was. Over two hours ago, I sat down to try and write this damn column. My idea was to complain about all the things I hated about my stay at Planet Laurier. My goal was to get all the negative thoughts about my University experience off my chest so I could move on to the next chapter of my life with no extra baggage. As it turned out, I stared at the computer screen for a good hour and drew a complete blank. After thinking for some time, I came to realize that the reason why I couldn't get these thoughts down on paper was that in the end, it doesn't really matter anyway.

When it comes right down to it, I have a few more term projects, presentations, and a midterm to do and then I can put this whole nightmare out of my mind. More than anything else, this past semester has been a headache,

and I will be glad when it's over. Sure there are some memories of my university career that I wouldn't trade for all the riches in the world, but they are in the past, and the future seems much brighter.

Classes, group projects, exams, midterms, essays, and the lot add to the whole university experience, but how much do they actually teach and how much is filler? Did I really learn \$20,000-plus worth of anything? I am not sure. My guess would be probably not. I really don't feel any smarter. Actually, I often feel dumber than I did in high school. Knowing how to do a Diamond E analysis, SWOT

analysis, or how to use Porter's Five Forces model to determine the viability of a market is not what I would call a value added university education. But that's the extent of what I can remember at this moment from my business classes, and I can do nothing more than accept this in the end.

I came. I conquered. I made some friends and now I'm ready to embark on

a new journey at a new school with new people and new classes. Hopefully, this new place will feel like more of a home to me, as WLU hasn't even come close to fulfilling my expectations of a university. I am still the same old WOP from the same old small town. I look relatively the same. Dress the same. And talk the same shit.

Thanks to those that have contributed to my university experience. Screw those that haven't. See you around.

That's my opinion. Take it or leave it. I don't really care anymore.

Peace.



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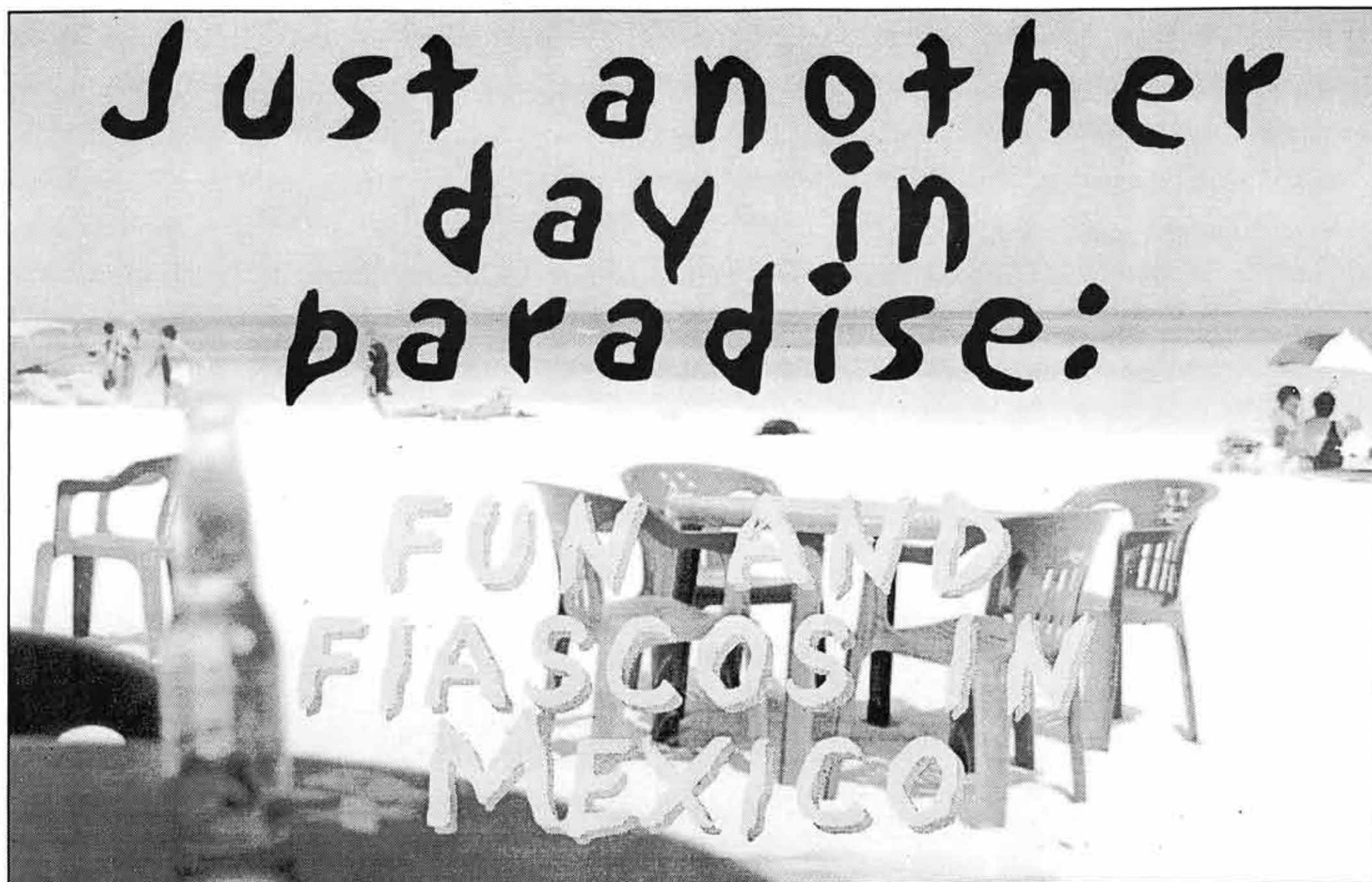


we all know where he was this weekend ...



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Tannis Fenton

Cramped amid a sea of crusty orange plane seats, I return from an amazing week in Mexico. I spent seven glorious days immersed in beauty at the Barcelo resort on the Maya Riviera, near Playa Del Carmen and 80 kilometres south of Cancun. My Mom, who is one of the best mothers in the league, took me to Mexico for my birthday. I'm going to take this opportunity to tell you about my adventure, which mostly consists of attempting to find authenticity amidst of a tourist haven, while giving you a feel for some place different.

Captain's log; stardate 2001...

July 1 – At noon, we arrive at our hotel under a blanketing press of heat in the beautiful Mexican sun. With three hours to kill, we find our way to the pool, where an endless number of vacationers are randomly perched on hammocks and chairs. I quickly discover the meaning of the phrase 'all inclusive'. There is food everywhere and self-serve alcohol – all you can drink, all you can eat and everything you could possibly want.

This abundance immediately troubles me. Hundreds of well-off travelers shacking up in extreme extravagance with a poverty-stricken country just outside the confines of the resort is not right. The resort is beautiful with five restaurants, two pools, an infinite number of bars, a disco and endless white sand and palm trees. And as my cynicism surfaces, as it often does, I see how the resort is not Mexico, but more a representation of what tourists expect to see. Transplanted trees and flowered shirts reflect an imposition of our ideas on another culture.

But I digress. Tourism is an industry and vacationers are there to relax, just as I am. My presence contributes to the whole system anyway, so there is no

point in complaining. However in my epiphany, I decide to experience something genuinely Mexican.

The rest of the day, which also happens to be my birthday, is spent ocean side trying to recover from waking at 4 a.m. The beauty of the Gulf of Mexico overwhelms me and I try my best to fully absorb the magnificence of it all.

Later, my Mom and I head to the Garden Buffet where I do not find an ounce of Mexican food. Okay, maybe there were a few ounces of Mexican food, but hamburgers and French fries dominated the tables. On my way to my first shot of tequila, which is a self-serve process of course, my Mom conspires

with our server about the birthday at hand. As I bite into my lime, I hear a trumpet of banging pots and several voices yelling the inevitable song. Soon, the entire restaurant is applauding as I

shrink into my chair, while cake is literally being shoved into my mouth. It is a classic moment. I end my 22nd birthday under brilliant moonlight being mesmerized by the sound of waves meeting the shore in a thunderous symphony.

July 2 – Today I spend 80% of my time horizontally. We find a secluded crevice on the beach and melt in the Mexican sun. My Mom, the ever-motivated sailor, persuades me onto a Hoby 16 catamaran sailboat. We fly into the

† This abundance troubles me. Hundreds of well-off travelers shacking up in extreme extravagance with a poverty-stricken country just outside the resort is not right. †



Finding my way through the maze of streets in downtown Playa Del Carmen, a small town south of Cancun.

ocean, gliding atop the deepest of blues.

After dinner, I realize the extent to which I have burned my back and legs. I am endlessly being surprised by my ignorance of the sun. Each summer I forget the previous roasting and find myself one step closer to skin cancer. Sitting becomes a challenge, but the magic of tequila and an open bar works miracles.

July 3 – We wake up at 8 a.m., when the day is too young for my eyes, and head to Playa Del Carmen. We take a one-hour ferry ride to Cozumel, which is a small island east of Playa Del Carmen. We are greeted in Cozumel by Sandra, who quickly becomes my favorite Mexican, and the other members of our group who are heading out on an extended three-hour tour on a boat you might expect to see on *Gilligan's Island*.

Our little boat takes us two hours along the coast of Cozumel to the world's second largest coral reef, next to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. After a quick snorkeling lesson, we dive into the warm salty water. It takes me a little while to get used to the snorkel and mask, but once I lower my head into the water, the sight takes my breath away (along with the occasional wave that crashes over my air source.) Sandra leads us along the reef, occasionally plunging below the surface to point out fish and other such marine life. She is amazing to watch, as she moves like a mermaid gliding along the reef.

Coral reef is a living animal, as numerous posters boast, and cannot be touched because the oil from our skin kills it. Sunscreen is also forbidden, which is unfortunate for my already fire-coloured back. I am in a serene world totally opposite from our own and things look quite different peering up from under the water. I swim over stingrays, barracudas, turtles and thousands of schools of fish, all glimmering in the sun's reflections. Words cannot

describe this feeling.

As we swim against the current ceaselessly pulling us along, we glide over 'the wall'. The reef is about forty feet below the surface until you come to the edge when the ocean takes over and the floor drops to four thousand feet. It is a phenomenal sight to be over that abyss and it gives me the chills.

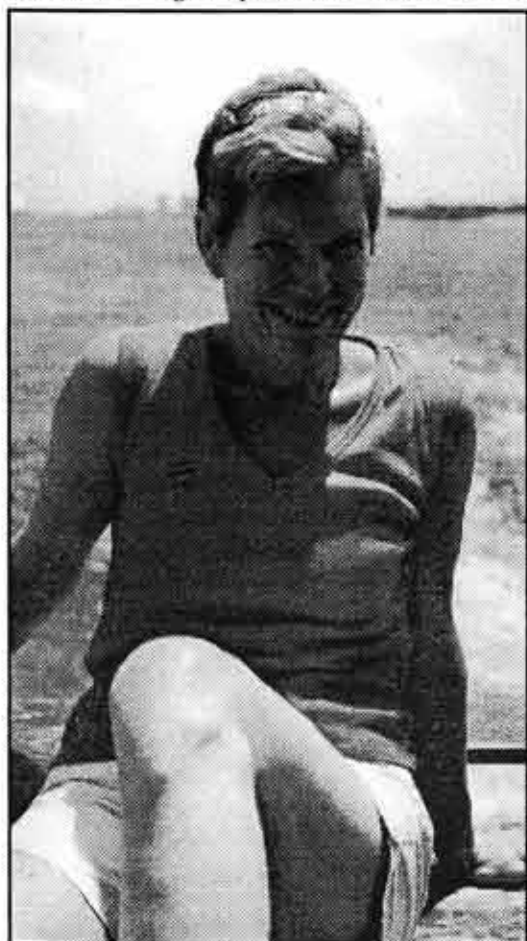
We climb back on the boat after an hour and a half of snorkeling passes by in a heartbeat. We are taken to a small beach club for lunch and rest before heading back to Cozumel. I have the most intriguing conversations with two medical students from Washington D.C. and a couple from Miami, the husband of which was a political refugee from Cuba who moved to New Jersey in 1963.

We dock in Cozumel and my Mom and I spend some time walking around the town. It is very commercial but it is comforting to be around locals. I am beginning to feel the isolation of the resort and the exposure of Cozumel, however touristy, is relieving. Exhausted and sunburned, we head back to Playa Del Carmen and our resort.

Tonight I discover Captain Morgan's, the resident disco, and the accompanying nightlife. The music is loud and everyone is having an amazing time. I meet people from all over the world and I feel the barriers of language. I realize my ignorance in not learning any Spanish before coming. While the resort staff are fluent in English, I wish I had some grasp of their language in order to feel like less of a tourist. It is hysterical to find ways of communicating with someone when there are no words to speak. Shots of tequila and lots of dancing close the gaps between everyone. After a late night swim on the beach, I collapse in bed.

July 4 – Today I nurse my sunburn as I sleep in the shade tucked away on the beach. The sea breezes soothe the headache that creeps into my skull with whispers of the tequila from the previous night. I have met my best friend and worst enemy in that dangerous liquid. When in Mexico...

Each night I go to the 'show', which consists of the resident dancers and singers giving us their best. It is quite amazing and the Spanish music and dancing is incredible. Mexican people are very sensual and rhythmic and watching them do their thing is spectacular. I feel much



My mom, Margret, chillin' out on a boat chugging along the coast of Cozumel. Also a little bit of illin'.



This was taken looking towards Cozumel on a beach in Playa Del Carmen. The water is a colour of turquoise I have never seen before. It's just too bad you can't see it, huh?

like I'm living the movie *Dirty Dancing*, with the feeling of tourist and employee barriers of 'them' showing 'us' a good time. Fortunately Patrick Swayze was nowhere in sight.

In spite of traces of tequila tortures, I find my way to Captain Morgan's tonight because if you can't beat it, join it. The dance floor soothes my ailments somehow. As my Mom turns in early, I now have my own crew of people to hang out with, who come from Toronto, Burlington and Denver. The Denver boys' American patriotism is in full force with the marking of Independence Day. Like good Canadians, we heckle them about their smelly cigarettes and funny accents, but end the night in a frenzied truce.

July 5 – My Mom and I find our way to Playa Del Carmen for the day to do some shopping and sightseeing. Unfortunately we arrive in the town just as two cruise ships do and spend the day trying to shake off the negative perception of ignorant tourists. Getting off 5th Avenue, which is the main drag, we discover reclusive pockets of the town and its people. I learn how to bargain today, which was not as joyous a victory as it might have been had it not been for the massive inflation of prices in honour of the cruise ships. My Mom and I take our treasures and head back to our resort. The afternoon siesta energy in Playa Del Carmen is addictive and rest is definitely in order.

In my avoidance of the sun, I intertwine myself in the night and head out again to the disco. My crew and I dance the night away and at the end we connect with a dozen more people from Barrie, New York City, Baltimore and other places. We decide to raid our room bar fridges and head to the beach for an after party. Everyone spends the early hours of the morning talking and laughing. There is an incident in which a giant water tricycle is sequestered for a late-night trek, but for the most part we behave. As the sun comes up, our energy waivers with the fading night and we head back to our rooms for rest.

Hundreds of well-off travelers shacking up in extreme extravagance with a poverty-stricken country just outside the confines of the resort is not right.

July 6 – Today I am able to come out of my sunburn-induced hiding and bask in the sunlight. The day is spent much like the last, except for the adventure that finds me that night. The show is in honour of Michael Jackson and basically mimics a concert of his. The man who impersonates him is phenomenal and, while I'm not a Michael fan, I am astounded by the likeness of the two.

At Captain Morgan's, I spend most of the night talking with the DJ and his entourage. At the end of the night, they invite me along with a couple from Baltimore to Playa Del Carmen, where they are going to their favourite bar. While this is an extremely dangerous venture especially for an unaccompanied female foreigner, I cannot say no to the opportunity of doing something unique like that.

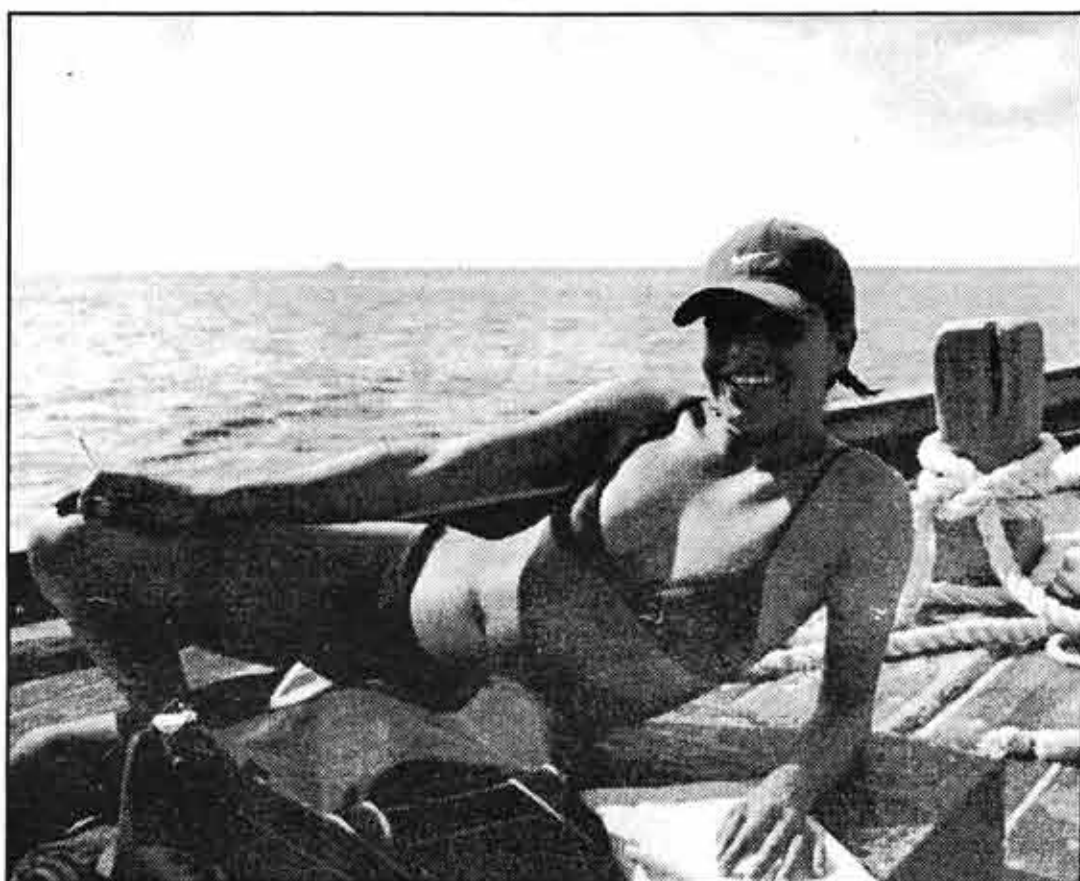
At 3 a.m., five of us head to Playa Del Carmen where we buy Coronas from a street vendor and walk to Soma, which is an inconspicuous club on the quiet side of town. Hard techno music is pouring from its walls and we enter the long

crowded place. In the midst of locals, we dance until dawn to the methodic beats pounding from the DJ booth, which is suspended high above the floor. This is one of the best things I have ever done in ways I cannot describe to you. This experience will stay within me forever...

July 7 – I spend my day perfecting my tan trying to soak up as much of the scenery before it becomes a memory. I have slept so little, but the excitement of everything has energized me. I learn how to salsa beside the pool in a crowd of sun-drenched guests, many of whom have the rhythm of turtles. The teachers make no secret of these stiff limbs, which makes the vibe a light and humorous one. I am partly sad knowing the week as come to a close and our now-depleted crew head to the disco for one last night. The place is dead with so many people having left, which makes the night even more sad. It ends softly with a whisper and I head to the beach to gaze at the stars one last time...

And as I type this out, sunshine replaced with fluorescent lighting, I reflect on my amazing journey wishing I could do it all over again. In discovering Mexico, I know there are so many other people and places to see.

Now if only I could get paid to travel the world...



The best snorkel guide, Sandra, gets caught up in paperwork after doing her daily tour along the second-biggest coral reef in the world. Another day, another dollar...

The Great Patio Adventure!

Amanda Fitzpatrick
Lynnette Visaya
Maneesh Sehdev
Matthew Cade

On a balmy summer night, few people would rather be sitting inside a sweltering bar when they know there is a cool patio at their disposal. There is a countless number of patios in uptown Waterloo, each one claiming to be superior than their neighbour down the street. Four aspiring critics decided to find out for themselves.

The Silver Spur

AF: I couldn't figure out whether the server was actually working or hanging out with friends. After our drinks were served, the table was wiped down with a rag that was probably dirtier than the table. No music meant no 'ambiance', which was a definite negative.

LV: This place was all about the metal. Metal chairs, metal hair, and metal drinks. I shifted several times in my chair in hopes of avoiding grid marks on my ass. Also, the iced tea tasted like a powdered metal drink. But, it gets points for its decent view of Uptown Waterloo.

MS: The uptown setting of this patio was a breath of fresh air — and gasoline. However, it was quite nice to be enjoying a beverage so close to the street, with a pleasing view in both directions. I believe I was not really consuming water, however. It must have been Watrex — the new, cheaper water substitute...?

MC: Although you know it as a Karaoke Bar, the Silver Spur also offers a mostly quiet little patio for those interested in having some bubbly under the sun. The location is decent and provides a nice look at some of Waterloo's finest architecture. Our waitress was kind and even helpful, but it was somewhat odd when she went and sat down with her friends at the table next to us and had a smoke and a drink. She's not only a waitress; she's also a customer.

The Huether Hotel

AF: The patio was very spacious.



The Concourse Patio: "What's a brotha' gotta do to get some service around here?"

The tables were nice, the food was tasty, the server was friendly, and the music was enjoyable. There wasn't really much of a view, due to the grate-like fencing. The establishment was very clean and I felt safe eating off their tables. Overall a good place to spend a summer evening.

LV: The Huether had decent service, entertainment and food. Maneesh provided more than enough entertainment by insisting that the waitress wanted him. More props to the girl who turned up the music for us. Overall, I was thoroughly impressed.

MS: The raised patio allowed for a pleasant breeze during our stay, which frequently turned into a deadly wind! Our lovely waitress, served up our orders with much gusto and panache. It was nice to hear The Stones — or any music at all — on this patio. In fact, it was nice to hear something other than the latest Staind or Sugar Jones song — which is probably playing at Wilf's right now...

MC: In spite of the loud air conditioner to my immediate right, the Huether was clearly the best overall patio experience. The food was great and the service was better, although according to Maneesh,

this was because of our waitress' keen interest in him. The second-story location had lots of space, and what could be a nice view, if not for the cages that keep customers from jumping. That's one Huell of a patio.

There was music,
but I think I'd
rather hear
nothing than
listen to
Julio Iglesias.

Failte

AF: The seating consisted of a bunch of glorified picnic tables, but they can fit a lot of people which is something the other patios are lacking. There was no music at this patio either, but they got away with it because of the extremely intoxicated patrons.

LV: The picnic tables made me feel like a four-year-old sitting at a Fisher Price version of the real thing. I found out interesting information such as Amanda's upbringing in Calandar and how many pints of Guinness is consumed each year. This place gets props for looking like the ideal place for Kim Mitchell to hang out.

MS: I'm not sure why this patio has a view of the parking lot, but it still provided for an interesting setting. The picnic tables were a little juvenile, but considering the level of intoxication many patrons reach, it's probably a wise decision. It was a little harrowing to deal with our extremely sophisticated co-patrons, however, since they were neither sophisticated and half of them didn't seem to be patrons...?

MC: This place seemed more like my backyard than a nice patio. But, it was less noisy, and more intimate. Combined with the friendly

staff and yummy garlic bread, it made our stay a good one. The guys who insisted that we were from "Nord Bay" also tried to pick up Amanda, but I put a stop to that by taking a lot of photos and scratching my beard a number of times.

Symposium Cafe

AF: If there's anyone who wants to seem more trendy and intelligent than they actually are, this is the place to be. There was a better view from this patio; we could actually see some houses and apartment buildings. There was music, but I think I'd rather hear nothing than listen to Julio Iglesias.

LV: This place lives up to its name. I felt my intelligence increase from the philosophical atmosphere. Knowing my waiter was a Philosophy major made me realize I was in the presence of great minds.

MS: This patio was quite nice, offering a raised view of the street. And the street wasn't too busy or gaseous (like Matt). My drink was highly pleasing, as was our service. The outdoor setting is much more pleasing than the intimidating, museum-like interior, offering a

relaxed experience, perfect for talking up that special someone...

MC: Other than the tasty "SBO" surprise, the most appealing thing was the brutally honest young man who waited on us. He was as confused as we were about the whole identity crisis thing (Plantation or Symposium?) but he left me with a good impression of the place. The pricey fare made it clear that we were in a higher class joint. So did the fact that 99% of the remaining patrons were couples on some sort of date.

The Concourse Patio

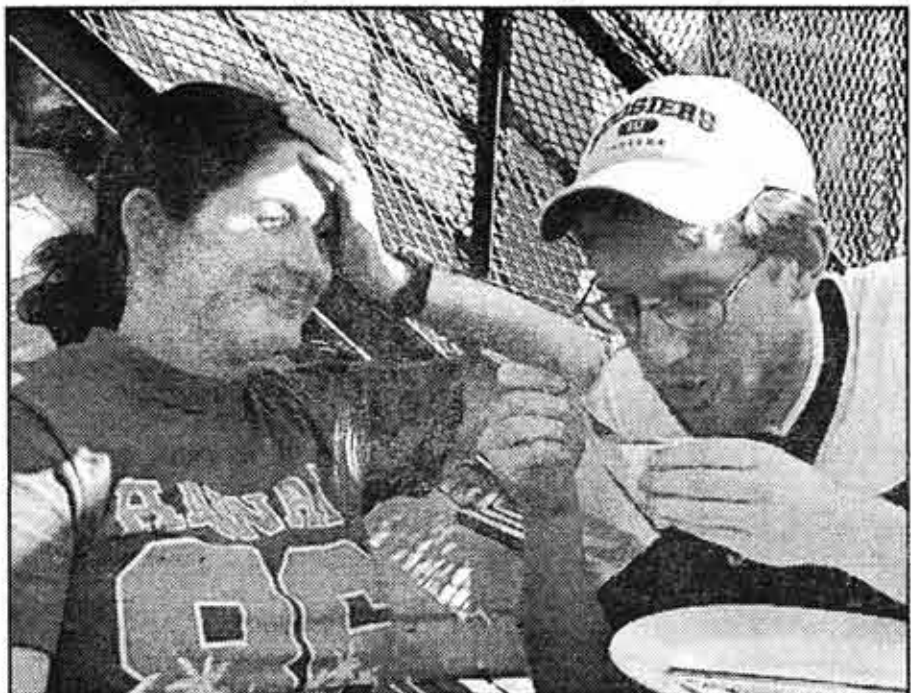
AF: Waiting for half an hour for someone to come and seat me, I got impatient and seated myself. I couldn't find a menu, so I went to the vending machines in the Torque Room and took my pop and chips back to my table. Thankfully no one had taken my seat while I was gone. There was little to no ambiance, and I was feeling a little weird because I was the only one there.

LV: What can I say: no food, no service, and no one there. But I'll give it credit for being the new cool hangout for WLU students.

MS: Oh please... Are you serious...??

MC: Okay, so it's not fair to compare the recent addition to the Concourse with some of Waterloo's most established joints. But here at The Cord, we don't believe in being fair. Depending on how you look at it, the hours of operation here are either extremely weak, or extremely strong. Service is only available for a couple of hours a week, but students have access to the furniture, trees and natural light whenever they want!

In conclusion, it is safe to say that The Huether Hotel was by far the best patio in Uptown Waterloo. On our travels we gained a greater appreciation for the different walks of life that inhabit this fair city. From lucky waitresses to the drunken folk, we have become regionally cultured individuals. Therefore, we recommend the visitation of Waterloo's fine patios.



With a full stomach, Amanda gives up on her dish. No worries. Cade and his beard to the rescue. Check out the cage in behind.



Lynnette and Maneesh ponder some philosophical thoughts over drinks at the Symposium Cafe.

The quarterback question

A youthful crop of QB's are making Coach Rick Zmich's decision a difficult one.

Wilbur Mclean

Picking a starting quarterback for Laurier's football team this fall is much like playing a game of black-jack: nobody knows what card will come up.

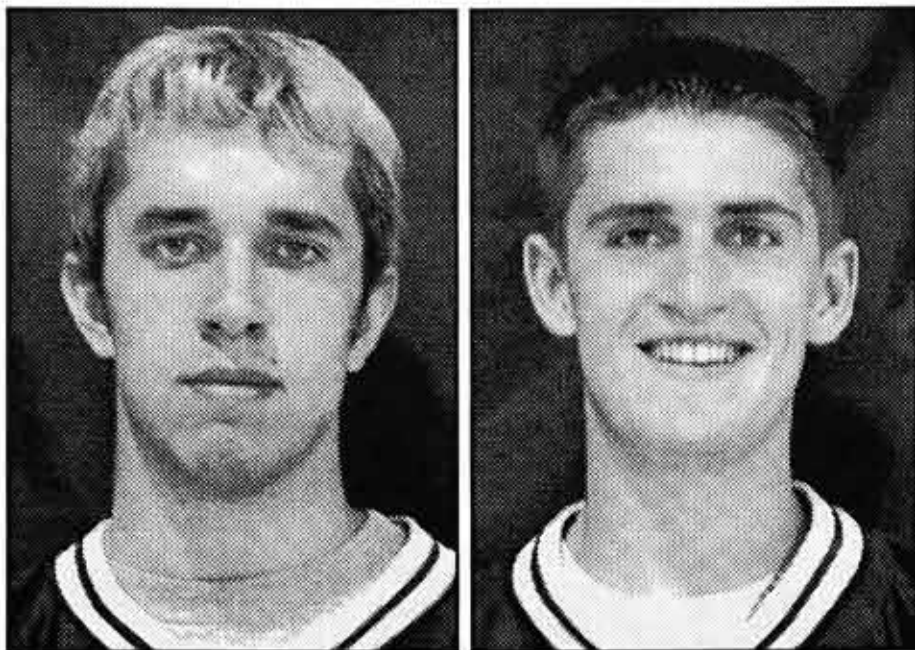
Now that standout quarterback Adam Lane has officially departed from the Hawks, the team has begun the tedious process of selecting and grooming a new play-caller.

Currently there are three major candidates who each share one crucial attribute: inexperience. Both J.P. Marchello and Chris Adams are just coming off their first years with the squad while Ryan Pyear is fresh out of high school.

Head Coach Rick Zmich knows that it will be difficult to replace Lane, who had the number one quarterback rating in the CIAU in 2000, but also believes that "all three (candidates) can play."

Last year, Adams and Marchello flip-flopped back and forth for the backup quarterback position throughout the year with Marchello holding the spot at season's end.

Coming out of spring mini-camp, which took place the last weekend in April, Zmich said that



Sophomores JP Marchello and Chris Adams are competing this summer with Freshman Ryan Pyear for the starting quarterback spot for the Golden Hawks.

Marchello was indeed "slightly ahead" of Adams and Pyear for the time-being, although Marchello is not one to get over-confident about his current standing.

"Being starting quarterback is the number one thing," says the native of Maple, Ontario. "It's great to be number one now but anything can happen between now and fall camp."

When asked about his chances of grabbing away the starting pivot spot from Marchello, Adams focused only on the factors he knew he could influence.

"There's no way to control how

they play. I can't worry about what J.P. and Ryan are doing. I can only worry about myself."

Pyear, the number one high school football recruit in Ontario

"There's no way to control how they play. I can't worry about what J.P. and Ryan are doing. I can only worry about myself."

has a lot of pressure coming in as such a highly touted player. As it stands, Pyear is the long shot of

the three to obtain the starting position though Zmich is quick to note that this is not due to a lack of talent.

"(Pyear) has the ability to throw and run and make smart decisions. He has the intangibles that a quarterback has to have," said Zmich who is heading into his eighth season at the helm for the Hawks. "Can he excel? I think so."

Zmich's main concern regarding Pyear is, of course, what he calls the "hidden variable", the fact that Pyear is in his first year of university football and is entering a new level of competition.

Pyear, despite his high standing out of high school, is not disillusioned when it comes to his current standing on the team right now and realizes that his chances are "a little further back than the others."

COURTESY OF LAURIER ATHLETICS

Kevin Taylor, who is currently playing in Austria, was an all-star defensive back for Laurier last year. But what many people tend to forget is that in 1998 Taylor was the starting quarterback for Laurier and a second team OUA all-star at the position.

It is still not a guarantee that Taylor will return for his final year of eligibility but chances are good that he will come back. Zmich discussed the possibility of Taylor taking the reigns come this fall and noted that "previous results certainly indicate he could play."

However, Zmich sees Taylor as more of a back-up plan and stated that "if we're having difficulties at quarterback this fall, we'll look at Kevin" as opposed to looking to him as a number one option. Likely though, when things unfold later this year Taylor will remain in the secondary.

Though very little is known right now about Laurier's starting quarterback, it is certain that when fall camp opens this August, many questions will be answered. Perhaps then Zmich will be able to find the Ace he needs to give the Golden Hawks that magical Blackjack 21.

Making the quarterback situation for the Hawks even more confusing is a wildcard final candidate.

Peter Campbell to coach student nats

Mariana Hrkac

Peter Campbell, Laurier's men's basketball coach, will lead the Student National Basketball team at the World University games in Beijing this summer.

This announcement came as no surprise as the talented coach has been a part this elite program for the past several years. The Canadian National Basketball Association relies considerably on his support, and comparable contributors are few and far between.

The World University Games itself is an admirable level of competition that takes place once every two years. Said Campbell: "It is equivalent to the Olympics in terms of worldwide representation, and ranks as the second-largest multi-sport competition with respect to total number of participants."

Campbell embarked on this particular extension of his already hectic coaching regime in 1995 when he joined as an assistant for the Student National Team, a tenure that lasted two full terms. Through 1995 and 1997, he contributed to the teams impressive third and second place finishes, respectively.

In 1999, Coach Campbell traveled to Palma de Majorca in Spain, this time holding the reigns as head coach. He piloted the squad to a respectful fifth-place finish and has been an integral part of the successful reputation that the program has earned over recent years. The team's journey toward a consistent record of success and a positive outlook for the future is no doubt highly

correlated to the presence of Campbell.

For the 2001 team, the journey begins on Laurier turf tonight when the potentials meet in Waterloo to battle it out during try-outs. The large pool of athletes will consist of all those trying out for both the Canadian and the Student National Team.

When asked about the difference between his role as the Laurier Head Coach and the National Head coach, Campbell commented on the quality of the athletes.

"At this level there is not a lot of the teaching of fundamentals," he said. "It's putting a package together and carefully fitting the (athletes) in. And then it's a matter of implementing the best systems for the group in order to give them an opportunity to use their skills and talents to the best of their ability."

"The other big difference is that at a school like Laurier you have years to build a program," continued Campbell. "With this team, I'll have about 10 days in total to 'build' the program."

The experience that is gained from taking on such a responsibility will no doubt add to Campbell's already impressive coaching repertoire.

"The athletes are so different and they each bring and expose me to different things. A lot of variation can also be seen amidst the international competition and the approaches used. As long as I keep an open mind, my growth curve increases and a great deal can be gained if I can bring it back to my situation at Laurier."

Campbell came onto the scene here at

WLU only last year, and turned out to be a well-made investment by the Department of Athletics.

The time he served at Laurentian University, his previous station, is one that Laurier fans can only hope to witness a glimpse of in the foreseeable future.

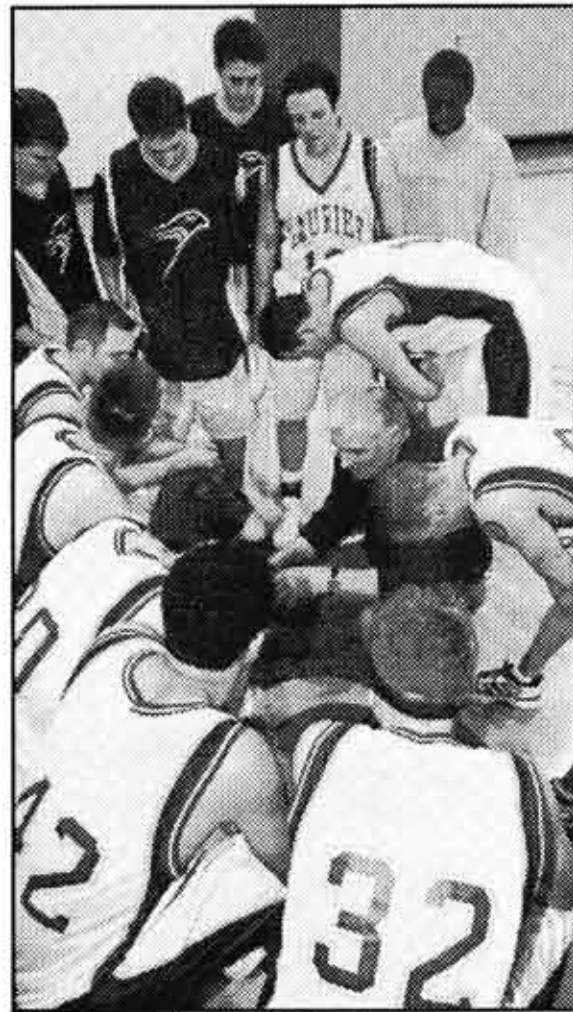
Upon discussing the obvious time commitment involved, and the time away from family, friends, and the ever-popular golf courses, Coach Campbell's words were moving. He explained the underlying motivation behind his continuous coaching pursuits as twofold.

"First, I want to see just how good I can be. And secondly, well, I love it. It's what I like to do most - working hard with my athletes at every opportunity, putting it all together, and seeing what happens."

Simply put, he is man that loves a challenge, loves to compete, and loves to win. Reaching Coach Campbell for comment during the time of this article's assembly was nothing short of exhausting. He is a man of little leisure and one who often hits the recruiting pastures in search of the best athletes as he looks to improve a downtrodden Laurier Men's Basketball program.

A dreary 2000-2001 season has left Coach Campbell in an unfamiliar and, no doubt, undesirable position. Based on what little exposure we have had of Coach Campbell, we can suppose that this will bring on an even bigger commitment and effort to win on his part and every athlete in his company.

His grand appearance to the more accustomed realm of success he is used to, is



Head men's basketball coach Peter Campbell rallies his troops in a game last season. We are hoping that his rallying will be more successful in Beijing this summer where he will lead the Student National team.

inevitable. Even here at Laurier we can be confident that triumph is just around the corner at the hands of such an exemplary coach.

Shinerama Laurier



Laurier's Shinerama campaign brought in over \$75,000 last year. Although everyone who participated had a lot of fun, we're all hoping for better weather this September. Otherwise those stickers they give out won't stay.

After a hugely successful campaign in 2000, new Laurier Shinerama co-ordinator Josh Lambier has a tough act to follow

Kevin Klein

After a goal-smashing performance from the 2000 Shinerama campaign, there are some big expectations for this year's event. And if Coordinator Josh Lambier has anything to say about it, I wouldn't want to follow in his footsteps.

One day, while working in the Students' Union office, Josh was approached and told that he looked like Jessica Diniz, last year's Shinerama Coordinator working at the computer. Lambier answered, "Yeah, I've got some big shoes to fill," to which the visitor replied, "No, you brought your own shoes."

Lambier, a 3rd year Political Science/English Major is coming into the job with experience. He was on the Shinerama executive last year, in charge of logistics, so he has some knowledge to start from.

"What we are trying to do is take last year's (campaign) and improve on it," he said.

Lambier used the analogy of last year's program as the framework for a book. This year all they are planning to do is edit the story. Then, in following years, chapters can be added.

One of the first things up for the 2001 Shinerama campaign is a golf tournament to be held July 24. Now in its second year, Lambier is hoping to double the number of participants to 140 from last year's 70.

Another idea for more fundraising was to keep Laurier's pop cans and raise money by selling them to

the company's that recycle them.

With each of these new ideas, combined with experience and successful events from the past, the co-ordinator and his crew are aiming to earn \$80,000, a goal that Lambier feels is very reachable.

"To be honest, last year we ran into a few things that we are hoping not to run into this year," said Lambier.

He cited the Zehrs strike and the overcast weather as an example of slight problems with Shinerama last year.

Expansion outside of the

"Shinerama could be a microcosm of a university like Laurier and what it can achieve, and it gives a chance for people to see how great the university is."

Kitchener-Waterloo area has been a question on Lambier's mind as well, and he feels that it is a subject that should be approached carefully due to Cambridge's location between Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Guelph.

"We do have fewer students and we can expand out there," he said, "but at the same time, other schools can too."

Lambier feels that stepping on

the toes of a less established program like the one at Guelph will only hurt that university, and the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in the long run.

Some have raised concerns with the Shinerama campaign and its role in Orientation Week. The argument is that Shinerama is being used to 'rationalise' the week. But Lambier disagrees.

"Where Shinerama is going, saying that it is being used to rationalize Orientation week is wrong," he said. "It could be a microcosm of a university like Laurier and what it can achieve, and it gives a chance for people to see how great the university is, how great the Students' Union is, and how great the community is."

For all the good that Shinerama does, however, heading such a well-respected program is obviously stressful for Lambier. It is obvious that people expect great things from him and from WLU.

When he walked into the Shinerama Conference held this year in London, for example, Lambier heard people whispering, "He's from Laurier." Later on he was approached by the director of the Queen's program who said, "We were told if we talk to you, our program will be great."

Clearly an important pair of shoes to be walking in.

For more information about Shinerama or the Shinerama Golf Tournament, contact Lambier in the Students' Union office.

Continuing to Shine

Kevin Klein

Everyone knows the story of the hometown girl who makes it to the big time. Well, roll the credits because one of Laurier's very own is starring in the latest re-make of that movie.

Last year's Shinerama Co-ordinator Jessica Diniz is the new Manager of Fundraising Development for the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Toronto and District Chapter.

"I saw it on the net and tried kind of blindly and because I has Shinerama experience, I got it," said Diniz. "I really think Shinerama got me in the door."

"I don't think you could walk in and get this. It just shows you your experience at Laurier will pay off."

Diniz is signed to a one-year contract with the non-profit organization, and has a fundraising goal of one million dollars, a far cry from the self-imposed \$65,000 goal for last year's Laurier Shinerama campaign.

And although Diniz did exceed her goal last year and pulled in over \$75,000, it is still a long way to a million. But her confidence will definitely help her in the long run.

"I was ecstatic," she said about



Jessica Diniz, seen here in all her beauty, extended the Laurier Shinerama campaign to new heights last year. Now she has a good job. And I don't. Damn.

making more than \$10,000 above her goal. "I knew we would blow away our goal but not by that much."

For their efforts and their success, Diniz and the Shinerama committee were also awarded with the title of Best Run Campaign from among the over 60 schools who took part in Shinerama in 2000.

"They're saying you did a good job and that is always good to hear."

You gotta be shattin' me!

1) The human brain can hold 500 times the info found in a set of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

2) More brain food: You can think 625 thoughts on the caloric energy of one Cheerio.

3) Longest Japanese word: Chi-n-chi-ku-ri-n. It means "very short person."

4) Only 30% of humans can flare their nostrils.

5) Mosquitos have 47 teeth.

6) Fish cough.

7) If you feed a wild moose often enough, it will begin to attack people who don't feed it.

8) On the day that Judy Garland died, a tornado touched down in Kansas.

9) If an octopus is hungry enough, it will eat its own arms.

10) Assuming Rudolph's in front, there are 40,320 ways to arrange Santa's eight other reindeer.

11) The Netherlands used to be known as the United States.

(Really?? You GOTTA be shattin' me!!)

Are you hot? Or not?

The internet rating mania continues unabated despite the tech-industry correction. How are these sites making money?

Kevin Ramzi Nasir

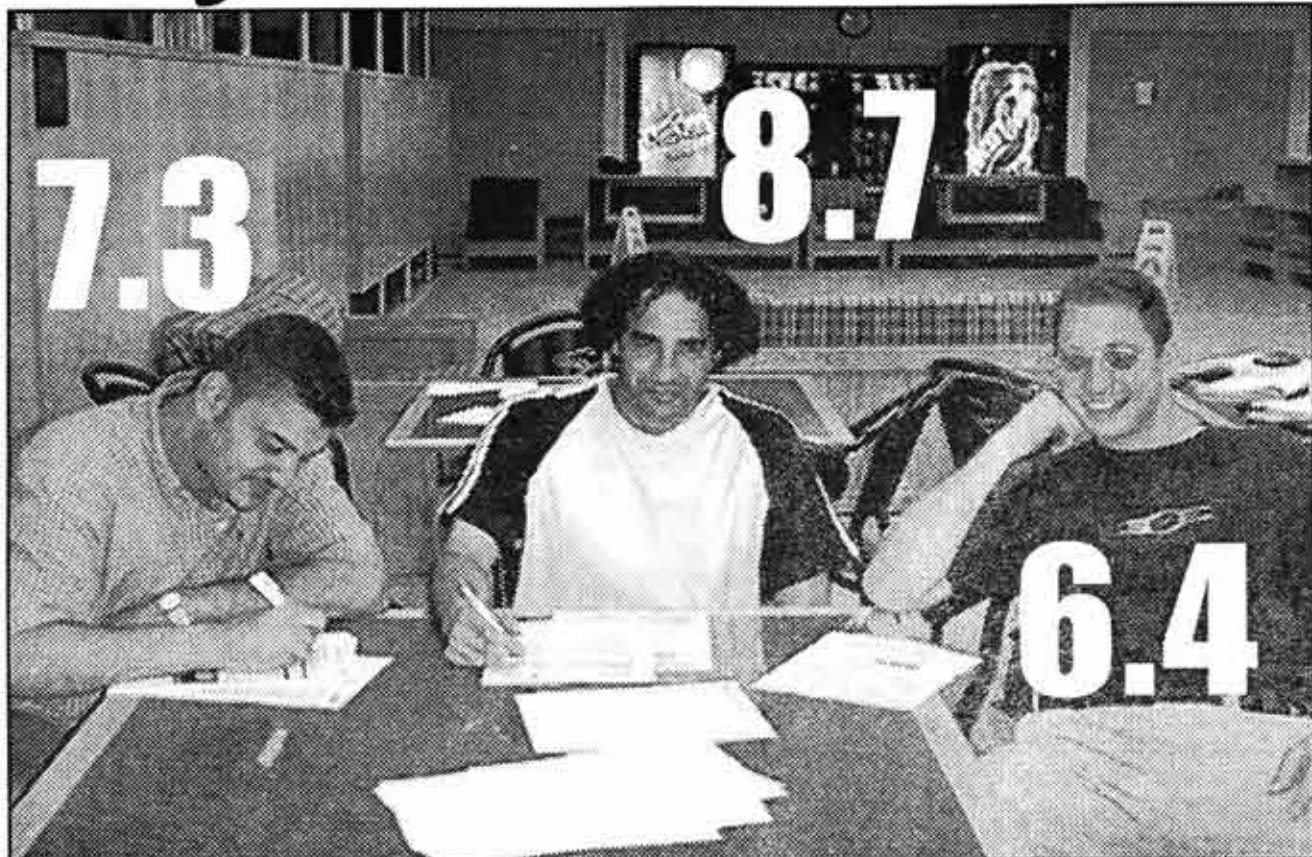
Last fall two American chums were having a few beers when Jim mentioned to James he thought someone was a "perfect ten." And so the idea for the site www.hotornot.com was born.

Around the same time, the United States media was in the throws of internet frenzy. The stock of any company with the affix "net," "tech," or ".com" was experiencing exponential growth symptomatic of speculative fever.

Meanwhile, many Americans still didn't have access to the internet. As a result many in the public began to fear they were missing the boat of something complex and important. (These are still being exploited by service providers such as AOL and Sprint which advertise the internet as "easy.")

The same fears led to media outlets jumping on easy-to-understand stories of incredibly young internet millionaires and websites that were entertaining and easy to explain. Hotornot.com was a perfect candidate.

The Hot or Not story was picked up by CNN, People and Time magazines, and the New York Times, among others. The world's media followed suit,



The hotornot.com success has spawned so many knock-offs, one must ask what's next? www.rate-torque-room-groupies.com? (Note: above ratings are fake and do not reflect the opinions of Cord staff)

especially on European television, driving hits to the site. The media even seemed to invent a buzzword just to describe the site's popularity growth through word of mouth via the internet: "viral."

The idea behind hotornot.com is simple enough. At the site one can rate the attractiveness of men, women, or both, as is one's want, and even submit their own picture to be rated. But the site explains that "men get significantly less [sic] votes than women because more people vote on women only."

Ratings are doled out on a

scale from 1 to 10 and averages are tabulated about every hour. The site informs scores are 'normalized' because of varying voting styles. "For instance, some people, for reasons unknown to us, only vote 1-5. Should a 5 from these people count as a 5?"

Average Laurier student Dave Wellhauser, for example, says, "I give everyone a 10 except people who appear to be posed or professional models."

The site generates revenue from online advertising, email lists, and a few other methods. The beauty is that other than site maintenance (which can't be too pricey, as Jim and James obvi-

ously haven't invested anything in design) there are no costs. Hotornot.com has spent nary a penny on advertising, yet the hits keep coming.

The site is so popular that it has spawned scores of copycats from ratemyface.com to rankmypet.com to ratemyrack.com. In fact, a glance at hotornot.com seems to indicate disproportionate popularity among university students. A large portion of the pictures to be rated are of university students or those of similar age.

Says Wellhauser, "I use 'Hot or Not' in the evening to help pass the time."

Postmodern copycats spawn

Kevin Ramzi Nasir

At first glance, the story of hotornot.com is an entertaining anecdote about a fun website and procrastination tool. Dig a little deeper, however, and one finds the website and its multiple offspring are perhaps a sign of these postmodern times.

The initial success of hotornot.com last October was quickly followed by copycats like RateMyFace.com, SayImHot.com, and Bangable.com. After these, wiser imitators appeared offering some sort of value-added feature in an attempt to steal traffic from the original.

At RankPeople.com one can send personal messages to the people one rates. AmIHot.com includes top score listings, personal profiles, personal message boards and a thumbnail gallery. PicPage.com allows users to submit multiple photos to be rated.

PictureJudge.com divides photos into categories more exhaustive than "men" and "women." Categories include celebrities, models, ordinary people, kids, and couples. FaceWar.com and PickTheHottie.com both ask net surfers to select the more attractive of two photos instead of ranking between 1 and 10.

Some students like Jaquie Marr dismiss the hotornot.com phenom. "Get a life," she surmises. Others, however, are more concerned. "Our society is becoming full of voyeurs," worries Dave Wellhauser.

"Eventually we'll have a society that watches rather than acts."

Even for those who "actively" get involved and submit their photos for review (please see column at right) the vanity of it all is hard to ignore. Just the names of sites like ColdHardTruth.com and TestYourEgo.com, where one can find out what type of people find them attractive, betray the narcissism of this trend.

Indeed, this is only one worry of the postmodernity of it all. Postmodern things are relatively determined, from relative morality to relative originality. Beginning with Warhol's Marilyn Monroe straight to the movie *Final Fantasy*, it has become increasingly difficult to decipher what is real in this world.

We even glorify mimicry. In the words of recent WLU graduate Chris Schafer, "fake stuff is always better." The Internet has only added fuel to the fire with its ability to reproduce copies of text and images (which are the same in these times, anyway). The copies can be exact or in subtly altered form, and they are produced in "real-time."

Take hotornot.com. Between all the copycats and the original, one can't tell which site came first. To make matters worse, there is no history on the internet. All that matters is what a website looks like at this present moment. One will find no mention of the date of launch on hotornot.com or likely any other similar site.

What makes this phenomenon all the

more postmodern is not the copies of copies of copies of the original site, but the satiric parodies of the parodies of them.

While the original site was created for fun over drinks, one can't be too sure if AmITrendy.com and HowIsMyHair.com are parodies or sincere copies. One parody, AmIGothOrNot.com was even created by one of the hotornot.com founders.

At "Monkey Hot or Not" one rates the attractiveness of monkeys, at http://www.modernhumorist.com/mh/0011/monkey/rate.cfm, and there is always AmIAnnoyingOrNot.com, RateMyMullet.com, and AmIGeekOrNot.com. These are actual sites, just as is RankMyPet.com and "Am I President or Not," at http://www.brunching.com/cgi/amipresidentornot.cgi.

If you're tired of rating attractive people, a whole industry has sprung up online to bring us pictures of people we can rate for ugliness. UglyPeople.com, AmIUglyOrWhat.com, AsUglyAsSin.com, DogFaced.com, and HowManyWouldItTake.com all do the trick.

There must be people out there taking these websites seriously because they are still around, though the joke might get dull after a while. Then again, in these postmodern times Bart Simpson can repeatedly reach for an electrically charged cupcake to our continued amusement. What is honest and what is fake? Who's only joking? Here's the postmodern answer: I can't be bothered to care.

Interview with a face-rater

Want to know what it's like to have your photo rated by anonymous internet morons in a pitiful attempt to validate your self-worth? In the name of investigative journalism, Cord staffer Maneesh Sehdev did just that and spoke with writer Kevin Ramzi Nasir about his experience 'from the inside.'

KRN What do you think of online rating sites?

MS I just think it's good for a laugh. In real life, people bullsh*t you, but online people are a lot more candid. Not that I need reassurance...

KRN How many sites have you been to?

MS Five. I like the ones where you can actually talk to the person you are rating.

KRN Were you nervous about putting your photo online?

MS Not really. So many people are on there from so many places; it makes you realize that you're a much smaller piece of a much larger puzzle... Unless I get a stalker from Michigan...

KRN Why Michigan?

MS It just seems like a stalker's haven.

KRN To which site did you submit your picture?

MS www.ratemyface.com

KRN Did they ask you questions on the site?

I had to answer questions about smoking, my age, religion, etc. They also asked what my last act would be if there were only 10 minutes left until the end of the world.

KRN What did you answer?

MS Starting a Fraternity.

KRN What is your current rating?

MS 9.0 based on two votes.

KRN Are you employing any strategies?

MS I sent messages to as many girls as I could saying 'you're beautiful. I gave you a ten,' in hopes they would return the favour. All I want are the f**king numbers.

KRN Did you hear back from anyone?

MS One girl wrote back "Thanks... I shore [sic] hope that wasn't [sic] one of those generic messages that all the girls get... You're a cutie pie yourself... I love the sarcasm."

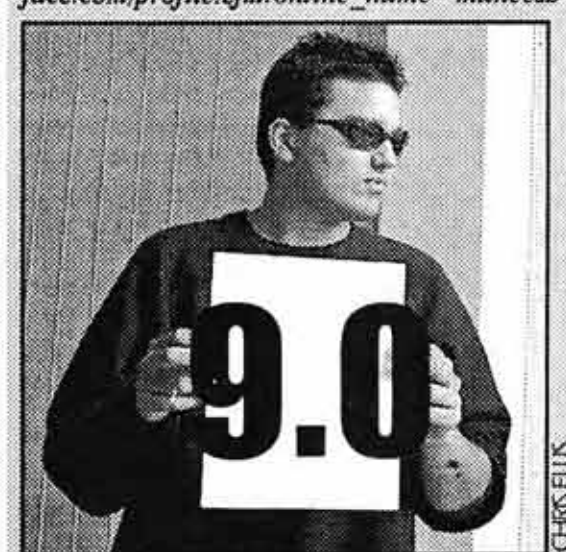
KRN Did you hear about last year's site rating the hottest Laurier students?

MS Yeah. Someone actually put my name on that and I got around sixty votes one week. Later, some chump had the site shut down.

KRN What do you think of ratemyrack.com?

MS It sounded like fun at first, but it's just an evil ploy by a porn site to get visitors.

You can vote for Maneesh at www.ratemyface.com/profile.cfm?online_name=maneesh



So far Maneesh is a 9.0 after two votes.

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PERSONALS

The Big Goodbye

Goodbye to Phipps, Kevin, Jocelyn, Chris, Jesse and Tweek, the departing residents of 24 Ezra Ave. So many memories, like that dead squirrel in the toilet. See ya! -Maneesh & "Ironhead" Mike

Groovy Male Executive Vice President

looking for a female to share a quiet night in the park, discuss politics, the environment, and reading poetry. Looks irrelevant. It's what's inside that counts. The only prerequisite is that you can't own a car. No drunks or addicts please. Call 883-9711, or email well3710@mach1.wlu.ca

Wop Out...

Well Folks...my grand exit is quickly approaching. Shout outs to my peeps at the Cord, Fruzer's, my Roomies, Scotty, Asad, Wellhauser and anyone else who made my stay at Planet Laurier enjoyable. And everyone else - you're hopeless, so see ya! Peace!

~Anthony



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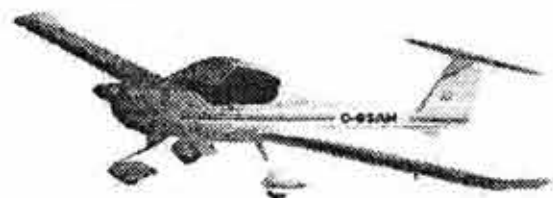
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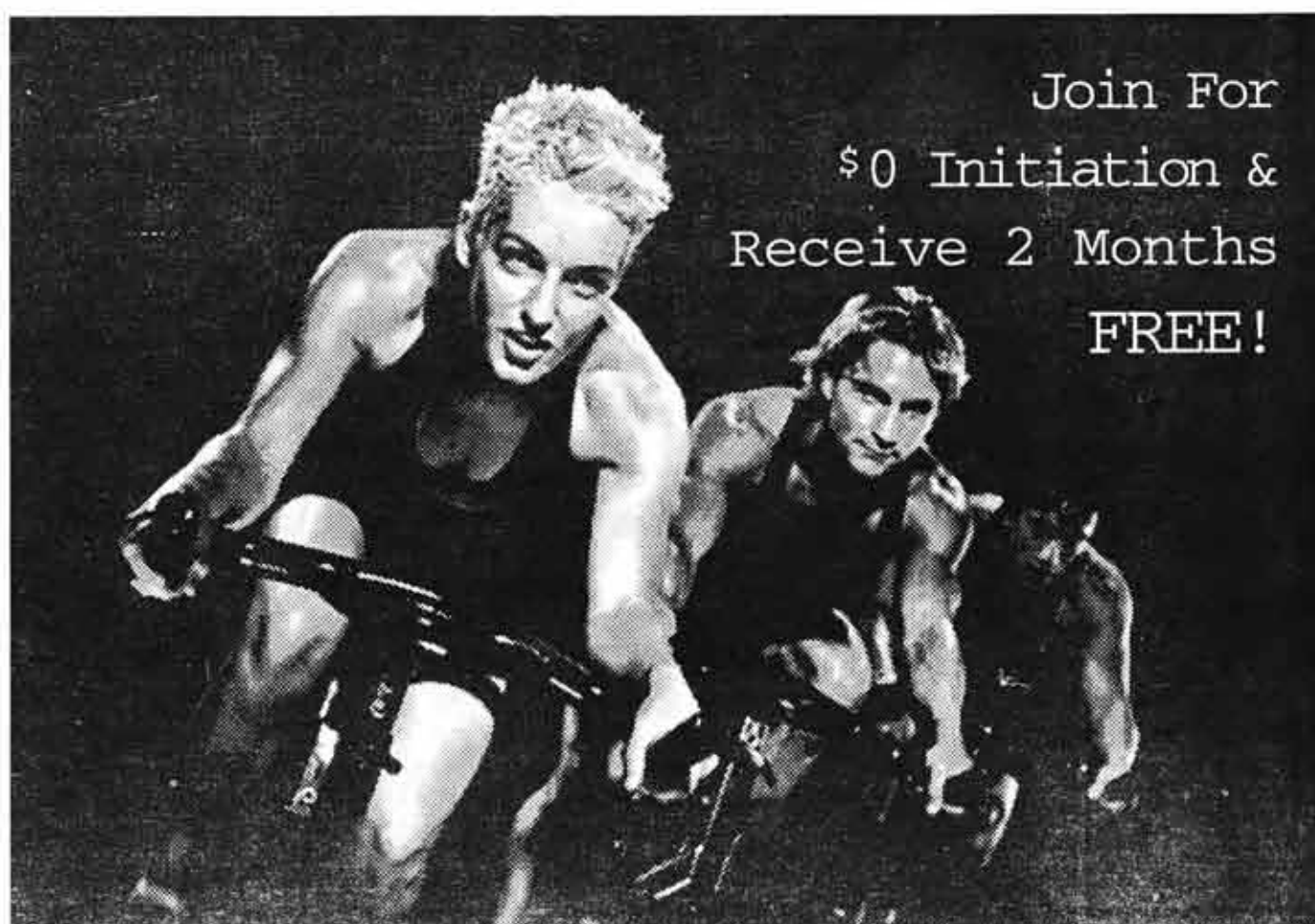
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